

S E R M O N

PREACHED AT THE

Charterhouse, before the Kings

Maiesty, on Tuesday, the tenth

of May. 1603.

By D. *Blague*, Deane of Rochester,
the Kings Chaplaine.

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To the Reader.



Onum, quò communius, eò
melius. Few persons in respect
heard this Sermon, the place
would not otherwise afford it:

But one being present at that time, tooke the
notes of it, & supposing it to be so comfortable
a doctrine to others, as he found it delightfull
to himselfe, as well in regard of the matter
deliuered, as the graue and methodicall deli-
uery thereof, was bold to make many others
partakers of it, hoping there is little, or no
difference betwixt the publishing of it now,
and the preaching of it then: Howsoever, ac-
cept his endeavour, being willing that all the
Lords people should prophecy, and reape whole-
some instruction and comfort thereby.

Farewell in the Lord,

H. H.

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A Sermon preached at the Charter-
house, before the Kings Maiesty, the
tenth of May, 1603. by D. Blague,
Deane of Rochester, the Kings
Chaplayne.

Psalm. I.

- 1 *Blessed is that man, which walketh not in
the counsell of the ungodly, nor standeth in
the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the chaire
of scorers,*
- 2 *But his delight is in the Law of the Lord,
and in his Law will meditate day & night.*



His Psalme hath no title,
because (as *Basil* sayth) it
is as the foundation to
the house, the keele to
the ship, and as the heart
to euery liuing creature.

so this is the key to all the rest. The mat-
ter of this Psalme, is touching the blessed-
nesse of the righteous. This blessednesse
he proues *ab Antithesi*, negatiuely in three
steps; affirmatiuely in two poynts, &c.

A 3 A S H R E I:

A Sermon preached

*ASHREI: that is, O the blessednesse
of that man!*

THe Prophet begins with an exclamation and sigh, sorrowing that so few do tread in the pathes of righteousness. Ye know there is but one God, but many Legions of Devils: and wee find, that the deuill hath more friends in the world, then God. For Christ our Sauour had onely *Pilats* wife to entreat for him: But all the multitude cried out, Set *Barrabas* the murderer at liberty.

Likewise, the soule is but one; yet doth an army of lusts fight against it; and who can tell how oft they preuayle? When this Scripture is verified, that the single woman hath more children, then shee which hath an husband, is that sinne barren? *Preciosa non sunt numerosa*. Good men are odde men. Helpe, Lord, cryes *David*, for good men decay. The righteous perisheth, who layes it to heart?

Wasps

before the King.

Wasps and Hornets swarme: the Adders egges are many: there is an haruest of Vices cryeth to the Lord for a sickle: Sinne ouerflowes like water, who seeks to stop the streame? Aske the earth: it will say, I yeeld much matter to make pots of: but little dust, that Gold comes thereof. Aske the Gardiner: he will say, I haue more weeds then flowers, more nettles then Roses, more brambles then Vines. Aske thine owne conscience, and it will answere, There is great plenty of men, *magna solitudo bonorum*, which walke vndefiled in the way of the Lord. Cherish therefore such as feare God; there are but few of them. Let a vile person be despised in your eyes; there are too many of them.

And this I take to be the reason why the Prophet doeth sigh, that so many seeme blessed in shew, and so fewe in deed.

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H A I S H: that is, *that man*.

IN the Scriptures, Man hath three names: *Adam*, in respect of his substance, Red earth: *Aenesb*, in respect of his fall, Wretched: for nothing makes the people wretched, but sinne. And here he is called, *I S H*: a *virtute*, which is, Blessednesse. Hereof comes *Ishah*: *virago*, a woman of Vertue. Happy hee that meeteth with such a match; Pearies and precious stones are not comparable to her.

I S H, is a man of Vertue and Wisedome. Wisedome is the gray haire; the vndefiled life is the old age; to depart from euil, this is vnderstanding. *Ishachar*, is a great boned Ass; seldome lodgeth Wisdome there. Behold, the Bee is little, but his fruit is sweete. The Oke is great and tall, and his fruit is fit for hogs. The Peacocke is fayre, but proud. The Vine is lowe, and creeps by ground: but
it

before the King.

it yeeldeth wine acceptable to God and man.

Ingenio pollet, cui vim natura negauit.

The power of God is declared in weaknesse. Blessed therefore is that man of vertue and wisdom.

The first step to blessednes, negatively; is, *not to walke in the Counsell of the ungodly.*

Counsell, as *S. Basil* sayth, is *Hieron*
ti, a diuine thing: like the water
spring, the deeper ye draw it, the
sweeter. Like a sweete perfume, comfor-
ting all the spirits. Where many are that
can giue good counsell, there is safety.
Blessed is he, that hath grace to follow it.
Counsell in Hebrue, is *Gnatfa*, of the root
Gnets, A tree. For as a good tree bringeth
forth good fruit, and an euill tree bring-
eth forth euil fruite: so all men resemble
the maners of their Counsellers. There
is no sinne almost done without counsel.
Would

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Would *Achab* haue wrung by violence the Vineyard from *Naboth*, but for the wicked counsell of *Iefabel*? Would *Abfalon* haue continued his Rebellion againft his father, but for the pestilent counsell of *Achitophel*? Could *Amnon* haue compaft his fiftter *Thamar*, but for the aduice of his Attendants, Make thy felfe to be ficke? Such dead Flies corrupt sweet oyntments, infect many yong men and maydens. Would God there were none fuch in *Israel*.

The root of all actions, is counsell in the heart. The heart is like a Mill, euer grinding good or ill thoughts. Neceffary therefore is this prayer: *Make mee a cleane heart, O God, and renue a right spirit within me.* Our Sauour fayth, that from the heart, come the things that defyle a man. Once the Lord fent a floud to wafh it: now there needs a fire to purge it. The firft ftep to murder, is anger. Where lurketh anger? In the heart. *Chrift* faith, that to looke, and to luft after a woman,

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is adultery. Where resteth lust? In the heart. If the Fountayne be thus corrupted, can the riuer be wholesome? If the conscience bee polluted, no puddle, no sinke so vnfaury as it. Blessed is he, that resisteth the first motion and entisement to euill. The Poets counsell is, *Venienti occurrere morbo*: before sicknes, take Physike: resist a mischief in the beginning. Would you haue instance hercof? A sparke of fire in the end of a straw, is easily put out: but if it catch the trusse, it hazardeth the house. The seed of sedition and heresie being but in one, is easily suppressed: but if it be spread, it will require *Hercules* labour to roote it out. The heresy of *Arrius* was first a sparke; being neglected, it so spread, that as *S. Ierome* sayth, *Totus orbis ingemuit, miratus se factum Arrianum*. Therefore little things are not to be despised. And though some say, *De minimis non curat lex*: yet a little pricke of a Rapier, may make a deadly wound. A great tree groweth vp of the least

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least grayne of Mustard seed. A drop of water is a small thing, yet many drops wil sinke a ship. A haire is lesse, yet hath it choked a big man. So the lusts seeme trifles, but by continuance get dominion, to the danger of the soule. Goe not therefore after thy lusts, for it will make thine enemies which hate thee, to laugh thee to scorne. Resist a mischief in the beginning; admit of no ill counsell: and this is the first step to Blessednes.

Vngodly.

THe persons that giue counsell, are here called *Reshangim*, of *Rashang*, to be stirring, to compas their purpose by hooke, or by crooke. The counsell of busie-bodies is euer dangerous. Such in Law, are called Pettifoggers; they breed multiplicity of suits and actions. In the Church, such are the factious; they break all good order. Order is called by *Zachary*, Beauty. Beauty in Greeke, is *Kalon apo tou Kalein*; it allureth euery one to the gaze:

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gaze: and so doth good order. Disorder is like a blemish in the face. *Cauendum ab his quos natura consignauit*: so, a quick eye must be set on such as breake order, for they are dangerous. In a priuate house, what doth one repining seruant? he sets all the rest in an vprere. Such amongst neighbours are Carry-tales; they lode & vnloade newes frō table to table, & breed much heart-burning. These are *Reshanging*, Vngodly stirring heads: By nature, they are like the wind, vnquiet, euer in motiō: if it be inclosed, it will shake both land & sea to breake out. The deuill eggs them on; Cast thy selfe downe headlong, do somewhat to be famous. *Esay* cōpares them to the sea, euer working, foming out their own shame. *Chrisostome* deriues *ponarian* apo *teu ponou*. Vngodlines is euer full of toyle; Vertue breeds quietnes and rest vnto the soule. Rauening beasts, whē their bellies are full, doe couch in their dennes: but these muse vpon mischief in their bed, and cannot be quiet, till they be

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be made a gazing stocke to the world, to Angels, to all men. Blessed therefore is the man, which walketh not after the counsell of such pragmaticall and busie heads.

Walketh not.

TO walke, is to delight in : Looke what company we frequēt, for such shall we be deemed and esteemed : for experience teacheth, that Birds of a feather doe flock together. Malt-wormes seeke out their like. Catholikes, such as feed their humours. Swine had rather wallow in the mire, then in cleane waters : and wantons rather dally with light huswiues, then be amongst graue Philosophers. What can be more dangerous to Gods children, then this ? Doe not euill words corrupt good maners ? Doeth not a little leauen sowre the whole lumped dowe ? A little viniger will sowre a great vessell of wine. A little wormwood will make a great deale of hony bitter : but a great deale of hony cannot make a little

worm

wormewood sweet. Good men are corrupted by the society of the euill, and learne to sweare by the life of *Pharao*: but euill men are seldome amended by the conuersation of the good. For this cause was antiquity so seuer: for it was not lawfull for a Iewe to conuerse with a Samaritane. If an Hebrue did eate with an Egyptian, it was counted abomination. Therefore hath the Church ordayned excommunication. If any that is called a brother, be a whore-master, a drunkard, or a couetous person, with such doe not eate or drinke, receiue him not into thy house, say not, God speed, lend him no countenance. Canst thou not shun him with thy body? yet be seuered frō him in thy mind: for pure deuotion is this, to keep our selues vndefiled frō this wicked world. Wretched is that man, which delighteth in the counsell of the vngodly.

The second step to blessednes, negatiue-ly, is, *not to stand in the way of sinners.*

The

THe Scripture sets downe a two-fold way. 1. The narrow way of vertue, like *litera Pithagora*, at the first, painfull: but when ye haue got the habit of it, it sets the heart at much liberty.

2. The broad way leads to hel directly, Therefore *Pithagoras* in the light of nature, gaue this precept: *Per viam popularem ne gradere*: which *S. Ierome* interprets, Follow not the errours of the multitude. *S. Paul* in the light of grace, teacheth: *Fashion not your selues to this euill world*. *S. Iohn* obserues the fashions of this world, to be, in the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

Hæc tria pro trino Numine mundus habet: This is the trinity, the world doeth worship. No maruell then, though *Cusais* reason be so predominant: Where the multitude runnes, there will I be. Hereby they verify the Posie of *Aristotle*: *Plurima pessima*: The most are the worst.

THe way of sinners, is the way of all flesh. All flesh is grasse, ful of frailties.

There

There is no corne, but may bee blasted: no soule, but may be corrupted.

In a red Rose it is not hard to finde a Canker. The holiest man hath his gifts with sundry imperfections. Marke the place ye stand on, it is slippery; the stowest may take a fall. The Iust man falls seuen times a day. Whosoever then amongst you is without sinne, let him cast the first stone at another.

There are two sorts of sinners; the Penitent, and the Infamous: the one sins of Infirmitie; the other of Maliciousnes: in the one, sinne remaynes; in the other, sinne doeth raigne.

The Penitent sinner cryes with *Dauid*, *Heale my soule; for I haue sinned against thee.* Humbles himselfe with the Prodigall child, *I haue sinned against heauen, and in thy sight, and am unworthy to be called thy sonne.* Knocks his brest with the Publicane, and sighs, *God be mercifull to me a sinner.* *Sic, cum homo agnoscit, Deus ignoscit:* Whesocuer we doe vnfaynedly acknowledge

B

ledge

ledge our finnes, G O D doth presently blot them all out of his remembrance.

The Infamous sinner is he, which knoweth nothing but sin. Such were those in the Gospell. Would God there were none amongst vs. *Jeremy* describes them thus, *They blush at nothing, they haue a harlots forehead.* The book of *Wisdom* thus, *They leaue tokens of their pleasure in euery place they come.* *S. Peter* thus; *They wonder & howt, that you run not at riot as they doe.* Blessed is that man which standeth not in the way of such Infamous sinners.

Standeth.

TO stand, is to fall agayne & agayne to the same sin, being warned and punished; yet nothing to amend, thats an infamous sinner. The scripture exhorts thus: *Hast thou sinned, my sonne? Doe so no more.* Bind not sin to sin: for one shal not escape vnpunished. Who wil returne to his enemies prison, whēce he hath escaped? such a one is worse then a brute beast: for if it stumble at a broken bridge, euer after it
shunneth

shunneth the place. The Bird escaping —
the fowlers gyn, flies aloote. *Piscator idus
sapit*: Shall not the sinner take heed? The
counsell of our Sauour to one and all is,
*Now thou art made whole, sinne no more, lest a
worse plague light vpon thee.* Who scapeth
shipwrack, and biddeth not both ship &
sea adieu? How often hath sin brought vs
to the shipwrack of a good conscience, &
yet will we not forsake it? To this end S.
Paul moues, *Ye that are dead vnto sin, how
can ye liue any longer therein?* Sirac presseth
this poynt: *He that washeth himselfe because
of a dead body, and toucheth it againe, what a-
uailes his washing?* If my sweete Sauour
Iesus say to me, *All thy sinnes are forgiven
thee;* and I wil not part with them, who is
to blame? Relapse into sicknesse is dange-
rous, much more into sin. Being deliue-
red frō the hand of the deuill, and posses-
sed againe; the latter end of that man is
worsethē the beginning. Therefore if ye
haue bin seduced by euil couēsel, yet stand
not in the way of sinners. Wretched is he
that standeth,

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The third step to blessednes, negatiuely,
is, *not to sit in the chayre of scorers.*

THis is the highest degree of sinne.
And to sit, doeth note an obstinate
contempt of all Religion & hone-
sty. *Zacharie sayth, Their heart is hard as*
the Adamant. The Adamant stone is dis-
solved in Goates blood: but neither the
precious bloud of Christ, nor the vn-
quenchable fire of hell can make their
heart to yeld. The Gospell cōpares them
to a cōmon high way, where nothing wil
grow: to vnsauory salt, nothing can sea-
son it. We know, that wine being sowre,
makes viniger. A tree being rotten, be-
comes firewood: and of ragges is paper
made: but vnsauory salt is good for no-
thing, but hurtful to all. Sweet words are
lost to such, because they are resolute: *ou*
peisas ean peithas thou shalt not perswade
me, though thou do perswade me. This
is the sin of presumption, against which
David prayes, Lord, keepe thy seruant from
presumptuous

before the King.

presumptuous sinnes, that they neuer get dominion ouer me.

This obstinacy makes men scorers,
Latim. Scorning is bewrayed 3. wayes,
gestu, verbo, actu.

1. By gesture.

BY scornful behauour, as girning, giering, spitting, poynting & wagging the head. *With the flatterers were busie mockers, the very abiects made mowes and ceased not.* Christ forbiddeth *Racha*, that is, a gesture of the nose. This seemes a smal matter, but in Gods sight it is murder. How scornes haue bene reuenged, wofull examples haue declared it.

2. By vnciuill words.

SO was *Ioseph* nicknamed a Dreamer, *Paula* babler, & Christ a Carpenter.

Libanius the Sophister thought to break a iest vpon a Christian: *Sirra*, what is Christ the Carpenter now doing? He answered, He is making a coffin for *Iulian* thy master: and so it fell out in deed. *Lucian* scoft, that hee had got nothing by his

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Christendome, but a sillable to his name;
For before, hee was called *Lucius*, and
now *Lucianus*. Marke his end: hee was
torne in peeces with dogges. *Ismael* scott
at *Isaac*: *S. Paul* calls it persecution. These
are *Flabellum Diaboli*. The deuils bel-
lowes: And *Flagellum Iustorum*, the scourge
of the righteous. From such scourges
good Lord deliuer vs. The tounge in He-
brew is *Kauod*, that is, glory: because it
alwayes ought to be an instrument to set
forth Gods glory. But these scorners,
with their tounge doe rent & reare the ho-
ly Scriptures, & call Genesis an allegory.
Epiphanius in Ancorata answereth all such
thus: If there be no Paradise, but in an al-
legory, then there are no trees, but in an
allegory: if no trees, then no eating: if no
eating, then no *Adam*: if no *Adam*, then
no men: then all is allegories, and the
trueth is a tale of a tub. Thus sayd the
foole once in his heart; but these dayly
bray it out with their tounge: ought such
be tollerated amongst vs?

ocjure the King.

3. By unlawfull act.

WHat is more precious then a good name? all the treasure & gold of Arabia is not comparable to it. Look what ornamēt hayre is to the head, sight to the eye, & green leaues to a tree: the same is a good name to euery Christian. Of this thing so precious, drunkards make rimes, reprobates cast Libels, to trample vnder foote the honour of the Best.

I hope, the last Sundayes motion is so well remembred, that I neede not harpe on that string.

THese skorners haue their chayre: for they wil be Apes of God & good mē, to couer their hypocrisy. There is a three-fold chaire: *magisterij, iustitia, & pestilentia*.

The first, is the Doctors chayre. The ancient custome was, that Doctors did preach sitting. Our Sauour, in Nazareth after the lecture of *Esay*, sate downe and taught. The Scribes and Pharises did sit in *Moses* chayre. Hereof Cathedrall Churches haue their name, where there is ordinary teaching. GOD

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forbid that any chaire should be without a teacher, or any Bishops seat long voyd; for then the people will mourne.

THE second is the seat of Iustice, to defend the good, to punish the wrong doer. Sweet is that melody consisting of these two poynts, mercy and iudgemēt: for *summum Ius*, is *summa iniuria*: extremity of law, is open iniustice. He that blowes his nose too hard, wrings out bloud. As *Gregory* sayd in another place, may bee applyed to this: *Mammillam Scripturae durius premitis*: ye wrest the Scripture and Iustice too violently, and so instead of milke and succour, ye wring out bloud and oppression. So, too much pity spilles a City. There is *miser cordia puniens*, and *crudelitas parcens*. Hee that spares a Woolfe, and pardons a wilfull murderer, doth hazzard the whole flock. *Aurea mediocritas*. It is an honour to the seat of Iustice, to minister it without respect of persons.

The

THe third is the seat of Pestilence : so the Greek text enforceth, which is, *Loimoon*. In the time of pest, we follow the Physicians rule : *Citò, longè, tarde* : God forbid that any should embrace or countenance a pestilent fellow. Can there be any greater glory to a King, then with the testimony of a good conscience to say, All my delight is in the Saints that are in the Land, and such as excell in vertue ? I am a friend to all such as imbrace the Gospell of Christ Iesus. Whoso is faithfull and feareth God, hee shall be my seruant. As for pestilent fellows, I hate and abhorre : such bring a Realme into thraldome. Therefore if you will be partakers of true blessednes, beware of busie heads, infamous sinners, but especially scorners : delight not in their counsell, stand not in their wayes ; least of all be resolute in their desperate courses : *Hàc itur ad Inferos* : this is the high way to hell.

The

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The affirmatiue part is, *But his delight is in the Law of the Lord, & in his Law will meditate day and night.*

THe Lord is here called *Iehoua*, the King of Kings, & Lord of all Lords, to whom all the Kings of the earth must bow their scepters, and do homage; for of him they hold in chiefe. This name the Iewes hold to be vnvttérable: that is, true in respect of the essence: for the nature of GOD is infinite; therefore they exprest it by *Tetragrammaton*. Superstitious this was, yet it condemneth our lacke of reuerence vnto it: For Princes and Magistrates we remember with their stile and titles of honour, but the Name of GOD passeth with contempt, and too often with blasphemy: Call yet this Religion?

THis Lord hath his Law, in which he will haue no competitors, *aut solus, aut nullus*. S. Peter calles it *Gala adulation*: pure milke, without any mingle-mangle.

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mangle. It is called *Thora*, of *Iara*, to teach: because it instructeth euey one what to chuse, what to refuse. Hony is sweete to a sound taste: but the Law of God to a sound Professor, is sweeter then the honny and honnycombe. Gold is precious: but to me, the Law of my God is dearer, then thousands of gold and siluer.

Life is sweet: yet the Martyrs of Christ respected not their liues, to keepe the testimony of a good conscience. Therefore that which is sweeter the honny, more precious then gold, and dearer then life, that ought all men to delight in: but such is the Law of the Lord.

Blessed is the man whose delight is in it: that is the first step to blessednesse affirmatiuely.

YOU know there is no life without som delight, the errour is in the choyse: but where delight is, there is cherefulness:
so

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so the Hebrew word *Chephets* enforceth, a readinesse, a willingnesse to all good.

Amor meus, pondus meum: Where loue doeth leane, both wit and will doe bend the selues. A little plucking drawes a man, whither he willingly goes. A little wind driues a great ship with the stream. Where God writes his Law in any mans heart, there is cherefulnesse. This made *Dauid* to runne in the way of Gods commaundements: and when his footsteps fayled, he wished, *O that I had wings like a Dove, to performe it!* Gods seruants must be like to Angels, most swift in their seruice. To a willing minde nothing is hard or heauy: for loue makes all things light. To such Christs yoke is sweet; his commaundements are not grieuous; because their delight is in them.

FROM this delight proceedes Meditation, the second step to Blessednes affirmatiuely. This Meditation is like to digestion: for vnlesse the meate digest

digest in the stomacke, it nourisheth not the body. Vnlesse the wheat corne dye in the ground, it springeth not vp againe: so, vnlesse the Word take roote in your hearts by meditation, it profiteth not.

S. Iames compares an idle hearer, to a man that looks his bodily face in a glasse, and with the turning of a hand forgets it. Which of you walketh through a greene meddow, and gathereth not a flowre? Who comes into an Orchard, & tasteth not the fruite thereof? So, bring home somewhat from a Sermon, that ye may be the better for it.

THis delight & meditation must not be for a spurt, but day and night: for godlines is a iourney, wherein must be no saynting. It is not sufficient to begin wel, but ye must continue in well doing. *In Christianis non initia, sed fines petuntur:* With what earnestnesse doe men run in race? yet but one receiues the price. In the spirituall race, runne all, that all may obayne:

obtainne : for in heauen is roome enough.

Hence may the Preacher learne this : *Attende lectioni* : for curled is hee, which doeth the Lords worke negligently. *Capite hos pradones*, sayd *Eschines* the Orator, *qui nauigant in mari verborum*. Katch me these Pirats, which saile in a sea of words, and run a sentence out of breath.

Hence may the King gather a sweete Meditation, that so long as the Law of God is his Counfeller, all things shal prosper with him : God wil be his Lord Protector & keeper, whithersoever he goeth. He wil keep all his bones, so that not one of them shall be broken. He will prelerue his going out, and his comming in, from this time forth for euer more.

Generally, God hath promised to all the faythfull, *I will giue my holy feare into your hearts, that ye shall neuer depart from mee*. And I doe assure you with the Apostle, *That God, which hath begun this good worke in you, will perfit it, even to the*

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day of Christ. *Hæc itur ad superos* : This is the high way to heauen.

God for his mercies sake write these lessons in our harts, and teach vs to frame our liues thereafter, that in the end wee may obtayne that Kingdome, which hee hath prepared for all his elect people, through Iesus Christ our alone Sauour.

To whom with the Father and the holy Ghost, be all honor and glory both now and euer. Amen.

FINIS.

